

CSP-2017-1 VT - 2017 Forestry Associated Ag Land

Soil Erosion

Sheet and Rill Erosion

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10%.
Assessment level: The water erosion rate is <= T.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

All non-traffic areas are vegetated.

Yes ☐ No ☐

The areas integrated with trees are covered with leaves, needles, fine woody debris, rocks, and/or herbaceous vegetation that protects the soil on more than 90 percent of the area.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Wind Erosion

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10%.
Assessment level: The wind erosion rate is <= T.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

All non-traffic areas are vegetated.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Classic Gully Erosion

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Soil erosion in areas integrated with trees is controlled. There are no impacts on sensitive vegetation. There are no occurrences or enlargement of gullies.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Streams, shoreline or channels are not adjacent to site. Assessment level: For shorelines and water conveyance channels; banks are stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND if bank erosion is present, it is beyond the client's control or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND for streambanks, SVAP2 bank condition element score > 5.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Excluding all fundamentally unstable, natural geomorphic streambanks/shorelines, all streambanks/shorelines on the operation show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Soil Quality Degradation

Organic Matter Depletion

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Soil organic matter depletion is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil organic matter depletion. Assessment level: Ground cover meets state criteria specific to ecological site.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

The areas integrated with trees are covered with leaves, needles, fine woody debris, rocks, and/or herbaceous vegetation that protects the soil on more than 80 percent of the area. The topsoil is not displaced. Woody residue is being added to the forest floor through branch breakage and treefalls.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Compaction

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems. Assessment level: Compaction is managed to meet client's production and management objectives.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Soil compaction is limited to roads and landings. Tree root growth is not impeded. No more than 15 percent of the forested area is devoted to roads, trails, and landings.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Excess Water

Seeps

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Excess water from seeps does not cause a problem.
Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objective.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

Excess water seepage is controlled to the point that it does not restrict land use or management goals.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Runoff and Flooding and Ponding

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Ponding or flooding not a problem AND activities do not cause ponding/flooding problems. Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objectives.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

Water runoff from hard surfaces, such as building roofs, is controlled to the point that it does not cause erosion or large streams of water.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Seasonal High Water Table

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Seasonal high water table does not cause a problem.
Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objectives.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

Forest management controls the soil moisture levels such that cyclical water table changes are not extreme.

Yes ☐ No ☐

CSP-2017-1 VT - 2017 Forestry Associated Ag Land**Drifted Snow****Planning Criteria**

Screening level: Drifted snow does not cause a problem. Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objectives.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Drifted snow is not a concern in this climate or measures are applied to avoid snow drifts on crops that may be harmed.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

CSP-2017-1 VT - 2017 Forestry Associated Ag Land**Insufficient Water****Inefficient Moisture Management****Planning Criteria**

Screening level: Moisture management is not a problem AND activities do not cause inefficient moisture management problems.
Assessment level: Runoff and evapotranspiration levels are minimized to meet client's management objectives.

Planning Criteria MetYes ☐ No ☐**Evaluation Tests**

Management choices include actions to limit moisture loss. For example, maintaining shade, retaining the forest litter layer, and maintaining correct stocking levels.

Evaluation Test MetYes ☐ No ☐

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Water Quality Degradation

Nutrients in Surface Water

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed AND there are no confined livestock areas.
Assessment level: Nutrients if applied, are based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Filter strips that are at least 30 feet wide are established and maintained.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

Filter strips that are at least 30 feet wide are established and maintained.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Petroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported to Surface Water

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to surface water.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well, and - within a stable place designed to provide secondary containment if the primary means were to fail.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Petroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported to Ground Water

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants.
Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to groundwater.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well, and - within a stable place designed to provide secondary containment if the primary means were to fail.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10% AND classic gullies are not present AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies AND the SVAP2 - bank condition >= 5 AND the livestock and vehicle water crossings are stable AND The water erosion rate is <= T AND wind erosion rate is <= T.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Established filter strips are at least 30 feet wide and maintained.

Yes ☐ No ☐

All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Elevated Water Temperature

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Water courses on or adjacent to the site are not designated by a State Agency as a temperature impairment OR water course temperature is not a client concern. Assessment level: The SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score is ≥ 5 AND the SVAP2 - riparian area quantity quality element score is ≥ 5 AND the SVAP2 - canopy cover element score is ≥ 6 , OR existing conservation practices are in place to address water temperature.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

More than 50 percent of the water surface is shaded on the length of the stream/river you control.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Air Quality Impacts

Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Activities are not present that contribute to agricultural source PM or PM precursor emissions AND episodes or complaints of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift have not occurred. PM producing activity examples are: Prescribed Burn is conducted, Travel ways unpaved or treated with binding agents, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, Pesticides are applied, Fertilization (manure/ commercial), CAFO/manure management). Assessment level: PM and PM Precursor emissions are managed to meet client objectives.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

Dust is controlled on all non-vegetated, unpaved travel ways.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Hedges or rows of trees/large shrubs are established that reduce and intercept air borne particulate matter.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Existing windbreak(s)/shelterbelt(s) function has been improved or restored.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Emissions of Ozone Precursors

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Operations are not present that produce ozone precursor emissions. Ozone precursor producing activities are: Engines (combustion source), Pesticide application, Burning, CAFO/manure management, Fertilization (manure/commercial). Assessment level: Ozone precursor emissions are managed to meet client objectives.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Energy-efficient vehicles, equipment, and actions are used to lessen discharges of NOx and SOx. For example, using the minimum level of equipment needed to accomplish the activity, minimizing number of trips into the forest, and leaving woody residue in place if not a fire or pest hazard.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Activities are not present that produce GHGs emissions. GHG producing activities are: Fertilization(manure/commercial), CAFO/manure management, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emissions are managed to meet client objectives.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site. Species have high-growth rates or long life span with the ability to reach a large size.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Energy-efficient vehicles, equipment, and actions are used to lessen discharges of NOx and SOx. For example, using the minimum level of equipment needed to accomplish the activity, minimizing number of trips into the forest, and leaving woody residue in place if not a fire or pest hazard.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Degraded Plant Condition

Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Plant production and health is not a client concern.
Assessment level: Plants are adapted to the site, meet production goals and do not negatively impact other resources AND plant damage from wind erosion is below Crop Damage Tolerance levels.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Inadequate Structure and Composition

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Plant communities support the intended land use and desired ecological functions. Assessment level: Plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

The current plants provide the desired habitat structure and composition.

Yes ☐ No ☐

The operation has a sugarbush. Seventy percent or more of the sugarbush canopy trees are sugar maples. Canopy trees are those tall enough that their tops are in direct sunlight.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help plant diversity.

Yes ☐ No ☐

The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure.
Assessment level: Pest damage to plants are below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria AND plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Invasive and noxious weeds are controlled or not present.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain early successional habitat to help plant diversity.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Trees are selected or planted that are tolerant of known damaging pests.

Yes ☐ No ☐

The current plant composition prevents outbreak of non-desirable species.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation

Planning Criteria

Screening level: Wildfire hazards is not a concern. Assessment level: Fuel loads and fuel ladders are managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Fire risk to sensitive sites are controlled by treatment, removal or modification of vegetation, debris and detritus in a strip or area.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

A hazardous fuel reduction treatment has occurred or will occur.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat

Inadequate Habitat - Food

Planning Criteria

Assessment level: The WHSI rating is ≥ 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is ≥ 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is ≥ 7 , OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruption--chemical, biological, or mechanical.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, AND - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Existing plants provide food for the chosen declining, threatened, or endangered wildlife species <see State Wildlife Action Plan>

Yes ☐ No ☐

Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

Planning Criteria

Assessment level: The WHSI rating is ≥ 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is ≥ 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is ≥ 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is ≥ 7 , OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

The pond/lake, which supports a natural or planted fish population, is managed: -to exclude livestock, -to control nuisance species and undesirable aquatic vegetation controlled, -to complies with state and local regulations when stocking the pond, AND -use of a buffer zone of diverse, natural plant cover at least 35 feet wide.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas

Yes ☐

No ☐

All stream banks show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Plant growth provides cover/shelter that benefits threatened, endangered, or declining wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>

Yes ☐

No ☐

Dead and/or down trees are intentionally left in the forest to provide wildlife cover.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Large, old, and/or "wolf" trees are intentionally retained in the forest to provide wildlife shelter. For example, trees with gnarled appearance, loose bark, or cavities.

Yes ☐

No ☐

The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health. Woody debris on the forest floor supports wildlife but does not present an elevated fire risk.

Yes ☐

No ☐

The stream(s) have: - a natural, unaltered configuration, with minimal channel straightening, dredging, or bank alteration by armoring with rip-rap or other non-natural materials, - stable banks with limited erosion or bank failure, and - human uses and/or grazing levels that do not negatively impact bank condition.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruption--chemical, biological, or mechanical.

Yes ☐

No ☐

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Inadequate Habitat - Water

Planning Criteria

Assessment level: The WHSI rating is ≥ 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is ≥ 7 , OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR water is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Plant cover provides access to water that is at the right height and/or depth for wildlife species.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Access to water is at the right height, depth and time of year for wildlife species.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Changes to water flow for irrigation or otherwise are limited to not alter the stream's usual flow.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)

Planning Criteria

Assessment level: The WHSI rating is ≥ 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is ≥ 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is ≥ 7 , OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.

Planning Criteria Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

In-stream structures (dam, diversion structure, bridge, culvert, low-water stream crossing, etc.) allow for the upstream/downstream movement of fish and other aquatic animals throughout most of the year.

Evaluation Test Met

Yes ☐ No ☐

Designated areas are planted as habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. Non-cropped area protected from disruption during nesting and foraging periods--chemical, biological, or mechanical.

Yes ☐ No ☐

People, vehicles, equipment, or livestock are only moved across a stream/river at a bridge, culvert, or stabilized ford crossing(s). Travel across the stream/river beyond these crossings is controlled.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help chosen wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>

Yes ☐ No ☐

Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Livestock Production Limitation

Inadequate Feed and Forage

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifier, livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

The existing feed/forage quantity/quality meet the livestock needs and goals.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Inadequate Shelter

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifier, artificial or natural shelters meet animal health needs and client objectives.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

Livestock has adequate shelter.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Inadequate Water

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifier, water of acceptable quality and quantity adequately distributed to meet animal needs.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

The livestock has enough drinking water of good quality.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Inefficient Energy Use

Equipment and Facilities

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major components of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or building insulation have been improved.

Yes ☐ No ☐

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Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

Planning Criteria

Planning Criteria Met

Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major components of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests

Evaluation Test Met

An irrigation water management plan is followed that: -meets the crop's needs, while maximizing irrigation water efficiency, -schedules water application based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring, -measures and records the amount of water you use to irrigate as it comes onto the farm and goes to each field, AND -the system's distribution uniformity has been evaluated and necessary changes were made.

Yes ☐ No ☐

Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or building insulation have been improved.

Yes ☐ No ☐